

**Job Announcement
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Office of Chief Counsel**

**Position Title: Trial Attorney
Location [or] Duty Station: FEMA HQ (Remote Eligible)
Grade: IC-14/15**

OPENING DATE: June 7, 2024	CLOSING DATE: June 14, 2024
POSITION TITLE AND DIVISION: Trial Attorney for Response and Recovery Legal Division, Disaster Litigation & Arbitration Branch	
SERIES, PAY PLAN, GRADE, SECURITY CLEARANCE, AND TRAVEL: Trial Attorney-IC-0905-14/15. This position is a public trust position at the full performance level of IC-15 in accordance with the approved RRLD force structure.	
DUTY STATION LOCATION AND REMOTE WORK ELIGIBILITY: The duty station for this position will be at FEMA HQ in Washington DC, however the position is eligible for remote work if you reside within 50 miles of FEMA HQ.	
POSITION TYPE: This is a Cadre of On-Call Response/Recovery Employee (CORE) position. This is a temporary appointment in the Excepted Service, not to exceed two (2) years, with the option to extend based on workload and funding availability.	
POSITION SUMMARY AND IDEAL CANDIDATE: FEMA's Response and Recovery Legal Division (RRLD) is hiring one IC-14 CORE attorney advisor for its Disaster Litigation & Arbitration Branch (DLIT) to <u>litigate and/or arbitrate matters related to FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) and Individual Assistance (IA) grant programs in Federal District Court and before administrative adjudicatory forums such as the Civilian Board of Contract Appeals.</u> If interested, please submit your resume, cover letter and a writing sample to Brock.Pierson@fema.dhs.gov . Litigation experience is required, ideally with a particular emphasis and knowledge of the Administrative Procedure Act. The ideal candidate would also have experience in Federal Programs (specifically, experience with IA or PA issues), as well as significant knowledge or experience addressing complex legal issues pertaining to one or more of the following areas: constitutional law, fiscal law, procurement, grants management, environmental law, floodplain management and hazard mitigation, disaster response and recovery, environmental and historic preservation laws, and emergency preparedness. The trial attorney should have experience analyzing and interpreting federal and state statutes, regulations, policies, Executive Orders, and judicial and administrative decisions in the course of rendering their advice. Upon starting the position, the trial attorney is expected to have the skills necessary to write concise, effective, and legally sufficient responses to complaints and/or other motions against the agency, as well as to responses to requests for arbitration. The trial attorney must work well with the client programs and possess superior oral and written communication skills. The trial attorney should also have strong character, interpersonal skills and have demonstrated the capacity to function, with minimal guidance, in a highly demanding environment.	

DUTIES OF THE POSITION:

The trial attorney will conduct preliminary reviews of Agency actions in anticipation of litigation, conduct case research and prepare motions, briefs, and other pleadings. The trial attorney will also represent FEMA before the Civilian Board of Contract Appeals in arbitration hearings regarding disputes over Public Assistance. Such representation includes the drafting of briefs and motions, as well as participating as lead or co-counsel in proceedings, conferences and hearings before the Board. The trial attorney may be called upon to argue motions in Federal court and represent FEMA in court proceedings, conferences, and hearings. After the conclusion of litigation or arbitration matters, the trial attorney will provide feedback and lessons learned designed to strengthen the Agency's position in any future similar circumstances. Additionally, the trial attorney may be called on to help advise on the development of pertinent regulations and policy, as well as advise or provide feedback or analysis on the disposition of matters related to FEMA's Public Assistance or Individual Assistance programs that contain any potential risk for litigation.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED/SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE:**Minimum Requirements include:**

- U.S. Citizenship,
- Ability to successfully pass a background investigation,
- Selective Service registration for males born after 12/31/59,
- A graduate of an ABA accredited law school,
- Relevant experience or education that demonstrate the particular knowledge or skills that are essential to satisfactory performance in the particular position, and
- Agreement with Every Employee is an Emergency Manager requirement.

You qualify for this position at the IC-14 level if you possess the following:

- A minimum of three years of full-time professional legal experience gained after being admitted to the bar, including at least two years of specialized experience that is directly related to the position being filled; and
- At least one of the two years of specialized experience must be at a level of difficulty and responsibility equivalent to that of an attorney at the GS-13 level. Examples of specialized experience would typically include but are not limited to:
 - Independently analyzing and interpreting federal and state statutes, regulations, and policies; Executive Orders; and judicial and administrative decisions in the course of rendering advice.
 - Substantial experience in one or more of the following areas: administrative law, personnel law; fiscal law; procurement; grants management; environmental law; floodplain management and hazard mitigation; disaster response and recovery; environmental and historic preservation laws, and emergency preparedness.
 - Experience providing legal advice and/or representation on complex administrative law, personnel law; fiscal law; procurement; grants management; environmental law; floodplain management and hazard mitigation; disaster response and recovery; environmental and historic preservation laws, and emergency preparedness. Experience refers to paid and unpaid experience, including volunteer work done through National Service programs (e.g., Peace Corps, AmeriCorps) and other organizations (e.g., professional, philanthropic, religious, spiritual, community, student, social).
- Litigation experience is required, including experience drafting pleadings, motions and other filings for court as well as courtroom experience as first or second chair in hearings before judges.

You qualify for the position at an IC-15 level if you possess:

- a) At least five years of full-time professional legal experience gained after being admitted to the bar, including at least four years of specialized experience that is directly related to the position being filled; and
- b) At least two years of the specialized experience must be at a level of difficulty and responsibility equivalent to that of an attorney at the IC-14 level; including:

- c) At least two years of experience arbitrating Public Assistance arbitration disputes before the Civilian Board of Contract appeals.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS: Resume, cover letter and a writing sample.

EMERGENCY MANAGER ASSIGNMENT:

Every FEMA employee has regular and recurring emergency management responsibilities, though not every position requires routine deployment to disaster sites. All FEMA employees are subject to 24-hour on-call in the event of an emergency. In the event of an emergency deployment, travel requirements may be extensive in nature (weeks to months), with little advance notice, and may require relocation to emergency sites, some of which are quite austere. The length of deployment may last anywhere from days to months, depending upon the nature of the emergency or disaster.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:

OCC is a diverse workplace, promotes equal opportunity, and welcomes all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, and sexual orientation), parental status, national origin, age, disability, genetic information (including family medical history), political affiliation, military service, or other non-merit-based factors.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION:

Please contact the Hiring Manager listed below if you require a reasonable accommodation for the application process as soon as possible.

HOW TO APPLY:

Candidates may apply by submitting their resume, cover letter and a writing sample to Brock.Pierson@fema.dhs.gov by the closing date listed above.